



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

and changes of rulers. Much material for this part of the book was derived from native libraries. Then follow chapters on the physical and intellectual characteristics of the Japanese, their language, ways of living, food, clothing and shelter, art and industries, trade, farm crops, and methods of farming. The book concludes with several chapters on the geography, geology and climate, the flora and fauna, and characterizations of the chief cities. Many of the pictures are new photographs, and many others are from Japanese woodcuts. The book is filled with informing matter, and it would be hard to find a better compendium of facts relating to Japan.

Rhodésie et Transvaal. Impressions de Voyage. By Albert Bordeaux. 284 pp., Illustrations and Map. E. Plon, Nourrit & Co. Paris, 1898.

Sketches of the country and people, brightly written and readable. No attempt is made to treat the economic or other more serious aspects of these regions.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.—The Congress met in Washington on September 8–10, and its sessions and field meetings were continued in Philadelphia, September 12; in New York, September 13–15; Niagara Falls, September 16; Chicago, September 17; and St. Louis, September 19–22. As the business sessions and scientific meetings of the Congress were distributed among these various places, it was impossible to secure all the important data in time for this number of the BULLETIN. It has been decided, therefore, to defer the report of this very interesting meeting of the Congress in America until a later number of the BULLETIN, when its history may be adequately presented.

Communications received in August from Mr. F. H. Nichols describe his progress to the 4th of June, when he reached Chamutong on the Lu-Kiang River (Salwin). He had been delayed in his journey westward by heavy snow in the mountains, but resumed his task early in May, and on the 7th arrived at the Lan t'sang River,

which he crossed on a bamboo rope stretched from bank to bank—a distance of 500 feet. The process was trying to the nerves, but simple enough.

The hither end of the rope was at a higher point than that fastened to the farther bank. A wooden block, closely fitted to the rope and sliding freely, served as a saddle, from which the traveller was suspended, securely fastened by leather straps. When all was ready, one of the men pushed Mr. Nichols, who shot along the rope, as he writes, in a minute and a half, to the other side of the river, losing only his breath. The mules and horses were transported in the same way.*

At Cheku, beyond the Lan t'sang, Mr. Nichols was received at the Jesuit Mission by the two French priests.

One of these gentlemen told Mr. Nichols that since T. T. Cooper in 1868 the only foreign visitors to the Lan t'sang valley were Henri d'Orléans and his companions—Lieut. Roux and M. Briffaud—Maj. Manifold, Capt. Diez, and Mr. Nichols himself.

The rainy season was beginning when Mr. Nichols arrived. In this mountainous region intersected by deep valleys, lying between the Lan t'sang and the Brahmaputra Rivers, the snowfall is very heavy. The snow melts in June and July; and this, in Mr. Nichols's judgment, accounts for the lateness of the floods in the Chinese rivers.

About Cheku and in the valleys to the west the land was full of flowers. The rose-bushes were like trees, and there were at least ten varieties of rhododendrons.

It was the 28th of May when Mr. Nichols started from Cheku in a pouring rain to climb the mountains. The rain continued for three days, and the first of June found the party encamped for the night on a hill, whence they looked down the next morning on the Lu Tsang River, which Mr. Nichols identifies with the Salwin. On the bank of the river was the house of Father Villesesche, the priest in charge of the mission at this point. Here the party rested for three days, and on the 4th of June Mr. Nichols records his arrival at Chamutong, with the words: "Now for the Brahmaputra."

* Prince Henri d'Orléans in his book, *Du Tonkin aux Indes*, p. 200, gives an illustration of this kind of bridge, showing a mule hung in the middle of a rope, with the two ends far above him; yet the Prince himself had crossed such a bridge.